



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Beaver Creek prescribed fire		
PROJECT LOCATION	T5N, R16E, Section 30, Mount Diablo Meridian, near the South Grove of Calaveras Big Trees State Park	COUNTY	Tuolumne
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Oak Leaf Spring prescribed fire is a 20 acre broadcast burn on the Beaver Creek property owned by Save the Redwoods League. The objective of the project is to reintroduce the role of fire in the mixed conifer stands on the Beaver Creek Property, increase stand diversity, mitigate the potential for high severity wildfire, encourage the establishment of fire adapted pine species, and increase forest health and resiliency. The ignition unit was thinned from below and pile burned in 2010, and the use of prescribed fire is meant to maintain restoration efforts in the stand. Control lines have been established around the perimeter and engines can access the unit along road that makes of the eastern side of the unit. The project area avoids class I and II watercourses, and an archeological survey has found no cultural sites within the project area.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type and Section: Class
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

15304- Minor Alterations to Land

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under portions of 15304- Minor Alterations to Land. The project consists of a maintenance burn of a previously thinned and pile burned mixed conifer stand. A query of the CNDDDB did not reveal the presence of any sensitive species within the project area. The project area avoids Beaver Creek, a class I watercourse. The project area does not contain any known archaeological sites. A burn permit will be obtained from the Tuolumne County Air Pollution Control prior to burning.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland or timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation or traffic, or to utilities and service systems.

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Helge Eng, Deputy Director
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

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Date

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